

May 25, 2000

structured or transacted, but requires only that dealers make available to consumers the relevant information about costs and terms they use to calculate a lease. For an industry that puts so much emphasis on the operation of free markets, I find it hard to believe that automobile manufacturers and dealers can oppose providing consumers with the information they need to make informed marketplace decisions.

I believe this is important and needed legislation that can transform the entire auto leasing process in ways the will benefit both consumers and automobile dealers. I urge my colleagues to give careful consideration to the changes and initiatives I have proposed in this legislation.

RECOGNIZING CENTRAL NEW JERSEY NOMINEES TO THE U.S. SERVICE ACADEMIES

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of very special young men and women from Central New Jersey. One of the most important duties of a Member of Congress, as well as one of the most enjoyable, is nominating students to the U.S. service academies. In an age when media portrayals of young people are increasingly negative, getting to know students through the nomination process is an important reminder of the patriotism, dedication, and excellence of America's youth.

From a pool of over 60 students from my district who went through the rigorous and time-consuming process of applying for a congressional nomination, I am very proud to say that 14 young women and men from central New Jersey will be enrolling in America's service academies this year. They are the very best of an exceptional group, and I was proud to nominate them.

Six young people from the area will be attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, NY, and will be commissioned as officers in the U.S. Army. I would like to recognize Margaret Nenchek of Califon, Alan Van Saun of Titusville, Frank Aburto of Freehold, Michael Rapijko of Princeton Junction, Thomas DiRienzo of Oakhurst, and Michael Lynch of Flemington.

Five young people from central New Jersey will be attending the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, MD, and will be commissioned as officers in the U.S. Navy. I would like to recognize Jason Mortimer of Lebanon, Adam Farber of Cranbury, Lily-Ann Thomas of Branchburg, Matthew Latyszzonek of Kendall Park, and Frank McBride of Tinton Falls.

Two young men from my district will be attending the U.S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs, CO, and will be commissioned as officers in the U.S. Air Force. I would like to recognize Keith Fitzpatrick of Princeton Junction and Kevin O'Reilly of East Brunswick.

One young man from central New Jersey will be attending the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. I would like to recognize Frank Megna of Titusville.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Mr. Speaker, I hope the House joins me in noting the accomplishments of these young men and women, and in wishing them the best of luck at the service academies and in their careers.

H.R. 4370, IMMIGRATION RELIEF FOR THE SUPPORT STAFF OF FERDINAND MARCOS

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, in 1986 President Marcos of the Philippines was granted political asylum in the United States to avert civil conflagration because of a popular uprising against his regime. The civil unrest arose following a controversial election in which President Marcos claimed to have defeated Corazon Aquino but was widely accused of election fraud. Growing street demonstrations in support of Mrs. Aquino raised fears of violence against what many viewed as a fraudulent election result. President Marcos left the Philippines on February 25, 1986 at U.S. urging and went into exile in Hawaii.

President Marcos, his wife Imelda and 88 members of his staff and their families were advised that they were being allowed into the United States with "parole" status for the convenience of the U.S. Government. This status is a legal fiction in which the individual is physically present in the United States but had never been "admitted" to the United States. The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) can terminate parole status at any time. The individual can be treated as if he or she had entered the United States illegally and had no right to be here. In this case, it is extremely unfair.

INS has instituted proceedings to expel some of these individuals and their families but not all of them. There does not seem to be any pattern to which individuals have been selected.

These immigrants were invited to the United States to help care for President Marcos who was already ailing and died in 1989. They were told that they could bring their families with them. They have been in the United States for fourteen years and are fully integrated into our society.

These people should not be deported. They came to the U.S. for an important reason. Because that reason is now past should not cause us to turn against them.

To rectify this unfair treatment, I introduced H.R. 4370 on May 3, 2000. The bill grants the individuals and their families the right to remain in the United States. These honest, hardworking people came to the United States at the invitation of our government. Their presence was known and they have done nothing to violate our immigration laws. To uproot them would be an injustice to them and their families that we should not allow.

The exile Marcos government in Hawaii was instigated by the U.S. to save the Philippines from political turmoil and rebellion. Those who came to implement this policy to end civil unrest in the Philippines should have the protection of this government.

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COMMENCING ISRAEL'S REDEPLOYMENT FROM SOUTHERN LEBANON

SPEECH OF

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 22, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 331, and wish to commend the Government of Israel for its courageous decision to unilaterally withdraw its troops from Southern Lebanon.

As Israel demonstrates its willingness to take risks for peace in the Middle East, the international community must rise to its obligation to ensure that Southern Lebanon never again becomes a staging ground for attacks against Israel.

We must stand by Israel during these difficult times, recognize Israel's right to self defense found in Chapter 7, Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, and work toward peace for the citizens of Israel and all the Middle East.

PRESIDENT ARPAD GONCZ ACCEPTS ROOSEVELT INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY AWARD FOR HUNGARY

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, May 12, at a United Nations ceremony the President of the Republic of Hungary, Arpad Goncz, received the fourth annual Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability Award on behalf of his country. This award is sponsored by the Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute and the World Committee on Disability. United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, and the Vice Chairman of the National Organization on Disability, Christopher Reeve, were among those who presented the award to President Goncz.

Mr. Speaker, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability Award is presented annually to a nation that makes noteworthy national progress toward the full and equal participation of people with disabilities. This important international recognition was given to Hungary in recognition of the great improvements that Hungary has made on behalf of disabled individuals. Hungary's 1998 Rights of Persons Living with Disability and the Equality of Opportunity law defined the rights of this important segment of the population and raised national awareness of disability issues in the country. Hungary has made outstanding improvements by establishing educational programs for children with disabilities and incentives for employers who hire those with disabilities. In addition to these changes the Hungarian government actively promotes the development of disability support groups.

In particular, Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Mrs. Zsuzsa Goncz, the exceptionally talented wife of President Goncz, for her important role and her critical efforts in bringing

about the positive steps that have been made by the government of Hungary to provide equal opportunity for the disabled. President and Mrs. Goncz are figures of great integrity and have given important moral leadership to this effort. I am honored to have them as my friends.

Mr. Speaker, Secretary General Kofi Annan made the following statement commending Hungary for its receiving the Roosevelt Award: "The full and equal participation of people with disabilities is the main message of the United Nations World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons. I commend the initiative of the Roosevelt Institute and the World Committee on Disability in establishing this award, and I heartily congratulate the Government of Hungary for its work to build a world in which each and every person can participate fully, actively and equally."

Alan Reich, Chairman of the World Committee on Disability also praised Hungary for its commitment to the U.N. World Programme of Action Concerning Disabled Persons: "Proactive efforts such as Hungary's should inspire other countries throughout the world. There are Half a billion of us on our planet with disabilities. This crisis that demands action. We urge all nations to respond to the U.N.'s call as Hungary has."

Mr. Speaker, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Award, established in 1995 by the Roosevelt Institute and the World committee on Disability, consists of a bronze bust of Franklin Roosevelt and a \$50,000 grant for an outstanding disability program in the selected nation. Previous winners of this award are Ireland, the Republic of Korea, and Canada. President Roosevelt, for whom the award is named, contracted polio at the age of 39 and from that time on could not walk without assistance. Despite this serious disability he was elected President of the United States four times, lead the U.S. through the Great Depression and World War II, and was a founding father of the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, Ambassador William J. vanden Heuvel, the Chairman of the Roosevelt Institute emphasized the role of the former President of the United States in dealing with disabilities: "President Roosevelt's role in the founding of the United Nations was one of his proudest accomplishments. It is wonderful to be in this institution more than 50 years later, celebrating progress in the rights of people with disabilities-progress that he would fully endorse as a person who lived with a significant disability for much of his life."

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Hungary and to Zsuzsa and Arpad Goncz on the occasion of Hungary's receiving the fourth annual Franklin Delano Roosevelt International Disability Award.

TRIBUTE TO ROY ORR

HON. MARTIN FROST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a dear friend and a great public servant Roy Orr of DeSoto, Texas.

Roy has served his hometown of DeSoto in almost every capacity imaginable, and he has been elected to numerous public offices. First he was elected to the DeSoto Independent School District Board of Trustees, then he served as mayor of DeSoto, and most recently he served as County Commissioner. Recently, Roy finished his term as Chairman and Charter Member of the DeSoto Economic Development Commission. To list all of the boards, commissions, civic and church related activities that Roy has been a part of would be impossible.

Recently, DeSoto's Mayor Richard Rozier and the City Council decided it was time to honor Roy Orr for his many years of service. Friday, June 2, 2000 will be declared Roy Orr Day in the City of DeSoto, and the linear trail system along DeSoto's Ten Mile Creek will be named the "Roy Orr Trail" in his honor.

I deeply regret that I will not be able to join Roy on this special occasion for him. Therefore, I want to thank him now for all he has done to make DeSoto the wonderful place it is today. Congratulations on these tremendous tributes Roy, they are richly deserved for a lifetime of service.

HONORING PICKENS MIDDLE SCHOOL IN PICKENS, SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. Speaker, today I honor Pickens Middle School in Pickens, South Carolina. This school has been recently named a 1999-2000 school year "Blue Ribbon School" by Secretary of Education, Richard Riley.

Since its inception in 1982, more than 3,800 of the most successful and challenging schools in the country have been honored by inclusion in the Blue Ribbons Schools Program. The schools chosen for this program fulfill stringent, research-based criteria for overall academic excellence. To be eligible to be a Blue Ribbon School, schools are judged in all areas of academics, instruction, professional development, and school curriculum. In addition, honored schools exhibit exceptional levels of community and parental involvement, high student achievement levels and rigorous safety and discipline programs within their schools.

Pickens Middle School was one of only four schools in South Carolina honored with this prestigious award this year. In fact, they were one of an elite 198 schools nationwide chosen for this honor for the 1999-2000 school year.

Pickens Middle School is an outstanding example of effective public school and is well deserving of this national award. Their parents, students, teachers, administrators, and school officials should all be proud for achieving this special honor. This school is a strong example of excellence in academics in the 3rd District of South Carolina and should serve as a model for schools across the country. I am proud to have this blue ribbon school in my district of South Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my fellow colleagues will join me in congratulating Pickens Middle schools for their commitment to educational excellence.

IN HONOR OF THE NEW JERSEY ARYA SAMAJ MANDIR, INC., AND ITS FIFTH ANNUAL COMMEMORATIVE FLAG-RAISING CEREMONY

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc., and the fifth annual commemorative flag-raising ceremony in celebration of the 34th Anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of Guyana.

This fine organization was incorporated in 1988 to promote Indian culture, while also assisting with the sometimes trying period of adjustment that immigrant families experience upon entering, settling, and residing in a foreign land. Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc., serves the educational, cultural, religious, and social needs of New Jersey's Arya and Hindu immigrants in a way that improves the quality of their American experience.

Guyana's independence is the primary reason for this flag-raising ceremony, and in honor of Guyana's Independence and its many years of struggle to realize that independence, it is important to provide overview of its history.

'Guyana' is an indigenous Indian word that means land of many waters. In 1622, the Dutch began colonizing Guyana and in 1640, the first group of slaves arrived. Following the 1763 Berber Slave Rebellion, British captured the colony in 1781, were ousted a year later, and they returned in 1812. Laborers were brought from Portugal in 1935, from India in 1838, and from China in 1853.

Under universal suffrage, the first elections were held in 1953. The People's Progressive Party (PPP) won the election, but it was removed 133 days later by the British. The PPP was reelected in 1957 and again in 1961. In 1966, Guyana became an independent nation. However, corrupt elections led to 28 years of unpopular rule. It was not until 1992 that the Republic of Guyana held free and open elections. Today, the PPP-Civic government is in power under the Presidency of Dr. Cheddi Jagan.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the New Jersey Arya Samaj Mandir, Inc., and the fifth annual flag-raising ceremony in honor of Guyana's independence.

THE U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 25, 2000

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues excerpts of a